REMARKS

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 8 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0035497 to Mazereeuw et al. in view of newly cited U.S. Patent No. 4,469,954 to Maehara.

For the reasons set forth hereafter, it is submitted that claims 8 and 12, as well as new claims 13-17 are patentable.

Patentability of the Claims

The present invention relates to power generating facilities to follow or monitor the output of the power generating facilities against the load commands thereon so that the plurality of power generating facilities is effectively managed. The present invention solves particular problems created under the conditions of fluctuations or changes of the loads to be required and fluctuations or changes of the outputs of the respective power generating facilities as well as inconveniences caused at any one of the power generating facilities so that the power generating facility is suitably managed.

According to the present invention defined in independent method claims 8 and 13 and independent apparatus claim 12, when a problem or failure occurs at any one of the power generating facilities, since the conditions or state of such a power generating facility are diagnosed and confirmed rapidly so that commands are given to the power generating facilities, it is possible to perform suitable operation and management of electric power network groups having a plurality of power generating facilities.

With respect to the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claims 8 and 12 over Mazereeuw et al. '497 in view of Maehara '954, Mazereeuw et al. relates to a system and method for the management of utility enterprises and relates to electric power transmission and distribution. Mazereeuw et al. also discloses a technique for securing the predetermined voltage and current values. Mazereeuw et al. differs entirely from the subject matter of the present invention and is related to power supplying facilities such as utilities and not to power generating facilities as in Applicants' invention. Mazereeuw et al. mainly relates to the remote monitoring/diagnosis, such as remote supervisory control, of transmission and distribution facilities as shown in Fig. 1 of the reference.

Indeed, as recognized by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action, Mazereeuw et al. teaches monitoring a utility substation rather than a utility generator. The problems, techniques and diagnosis concerned with power generating systems are quite different than those used in connection with monitoring a utility substation. As the Examiner recognizes on page 4 of the Office Action, Mazereeuw et al. fails to teach that the substations are capable of generating power.

To supply this deficiency of Mazereeuw et al., the Examiner then cites Maehara as teaching analogous art with a substation capable of generating power.

Maehara relates to a movable substation which incorporates a generator 16 having a prime mover coupled therewith for operating and controlling the equipment in the substation. This substation is stated to be useful in areas where no power supply for operating and controlling the equipment is available. It is submitted, however, that there is no basis for combining the teachings of Maehara with those of

Mazereeuw et al. in the manner done so by the Examiner. The movable substation of Maehara is quite different from Applicants' invention and is quite different from the system and method for management of utility enterprises set forth in Mazereeuw et al.

In addition, there is no suggestion in either of Mazereeuw et al. or Maehara of combining their teachings in the manner done so by the Examiner. It is therefore submitted that independent claim 8 and claim 14 depending therefrom, independent claim 12 and new claims 15, 16 and 17 depending therefrom, and new independent claim 13 patentably distinguish over the prior art taken alone or in combination.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger & Malur, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. NIP-219-03).

Respectfully submitted,

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